

1271 RPTS BOYUM

1272 DCMN DANIELS

1273 [10:30 a.m.]

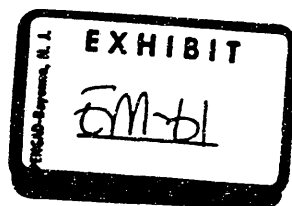
1274 Mr. NIELDS. My question is why, if it was up to Mr.
1275 Secord to decide what to do with the \$10 million, did you
1276 seek the President's approval to use it for the contras?

1277 Mr. NORTH. What I sought was--as I just tried to
1278 articulate--I sought the overall approval for the overall
1279 plan, a part of--in fact, a relatively small part of the
1280 overall plan for dealing with the Iranians was the use of
1281 the residuals from those transactions to help the Nicaraguan
1282 freedom fighters.

1283 It was, if you just look at the number of words dedicated
1284 to that aspect of it in the one memo that still exists, it
1285 is a very brief mention. Not because it is trying to be
1286 buried, but because it was a relatively small part of it.

1287 It has been made an enormous political event, but I am
1288 telling you it was a relatively small part of the overall
1289 objective.

1290 The overall objectives were what I just articulated. We
1291 were striving, as the finding clearly indicates--and I wrote
1292 those words in the finding, those words have come from the
1293 earliest discussions I had with Mr. Ledeen and Mr. McFarlane
1294 in the summer of 1985 as to what we hoped to achieve as a
1295 consequence of these deliveries or transactions with the



1296| Iranians.

1297| That is what we were about.

1298| Mr. NIELDS. I don't want to belabor the point, but let

1299| me see if I can ask the question simply once and see if you

1300| can answer this one way or the other.

1301| Whose decision was it whether the moneys would be used for

1302| the contras or not? Somebody in the U.S. Government, or

1303| General Secord?

1304| Mr. NORTH. The decision was made that residuals from

1305| those transactions would be applied to support the Nicaragua

1306| resistance with the authority that I got from my superiors,

1307| Admiral Poindexter, with the concurrence of William J. Casey

1308| and I thought at the time the President of the United

1309| States.

1310| I later learned that the President was unaware of that

1311| aspect of these transactions.

1312| Mr. NIELDS. And if the United States Government had

1313| decided that the \$10 million less expenses should all be

1314| paid into the United States Treasury, then that is what

1315| would have happened, isn't it?

1316| Mr. SULLIVAN. He has answered the question, Mr. Nields.

1317| Mr. NORTH. Please, Counsel, let--

1318| Mr. SULLIVAN. One at a time.

1319| Mr. NORTH. You know, the United States Government charged

1320| X thousands of dollars for a commodity. If I were to buy a

1321 piece of land from the United States Park Service for
1322 \$10,000 and then a year later or a week later go out and
1323 sell it for \$20,000, would the Government of the United
1324 States lay claim to my \$10,000 profit?

1325 Mr. NIELDS. Are you--

1326 Mr. NORTH. I know I am not supposed to ask the questions.

1327 Mr. NIELDS. That did not answer my question. Counsel
1328 said you already answered it.

1329 Mr. SULLIVAN. That is right.

1330 Mr. NIELDS. I would like an answer.

1331 Chairman INOUE. I hate to remind counsel, but he is well
1332 aware of the rules. Please address the Chair.

1333 Mr. SULLIVAN. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

1334 DCMN MILTON

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1336 Chairman INOUE. Let's not stall the proceedings.

1337 Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Chairman, if taking four minutes to

1338 explain my position can expedite the proceedings and remind

1339 the Chair of its intended--its intention to us to complete

1340 these hearings in four days, then I think it is four minutes

1341 well worth spent.

1342 Chairman INOUE. Please proceed.

1343 Mr. NORTH. Whose turn?

1344 Mr. NIELDS. The question was, if those higher-ups in the

1345 United States Government from whom you sought approval

1346 decided that the \$10 million should not, any part of it, be

1347 sent to the contras but should all come back to the United

1348 States Treasury, that is what would have happened, isn't it?

1349 Mr. NORTH. Yes.

1350 Mr. NIELDS. So it was our money that was going to the

1351 contras, wasn't it?

1352 Mr. NORTH. I disagree with your conclusion, Counsel.

1353 Chairman INOUE. Is this a good time for a recess?

1354 Mr. NORTH. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman.

1355 Chairman INOUE. Please proceed.

1356 Mr. NORTH. I disagree with your conclusion. If my boss

1357 told me, 'Ollie, every penny that comes from this thing

1358 goes right back into the Treasury of the United States of